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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Performance report on the budget of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

Report of the Secretary-General

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Summary

The present report contains the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

The total expenditure for UNDOF for that period has been linked to the mission's objective through a number of results-based-budgeting frameworks, grouped by components, namely, operations and support.

Performance of financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars. Budget year is from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.)

			Variance	
Category	*Apportionment*	*Expenditure*	*Amount*	*Percentage*
Military and police personnel	19 698.8	20 616.4	(917.6)	(4.7)
Civilian personnel	8 726.7	8 528.2	198.5	2.3
Operational costs	11 237.0	13 035.1	(1 798.1)	(16.0)
Gross requirements	**39 662.5**	**42 179.7**	**(2 517.2)**	**(6.3)**
Staff assessment income	1 110.6	1 189.6	(79.0)	(7.1)
Net requirements	**38 551.9**	**40 990.1**	**(2 438.2)**	**(6.3)**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	—	—	—	—
Total requirements	**39 662.5**	**42 179.7**	**(2 517.2)**	**(6.3)**

Human resources incumbency performance

Category	*Approved*[a]	*Actual (average)*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*[b]
Military contingents	1 047	1 051	(0.4)[c]
International staff	43	38	11.2
National staff	107	104	3.2
Temporary positions[d]			
International staff	1	1	—
National staff	1	1	—

[a] Represents the highest level of authorized strength.
[b] Based on monthly incumbency and approved monthly strength.
[c] Attributable to the overlap of personnel on rotation.
[d] Funded under general temporary assistance.

The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in section V of the present report.

I. Introduction

1. The budget for the maintenance of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, set out in the report of the Secretary-General dated 20 March 2007 (A/61/671 and Corr.1), amounted to $39,923,100 gross ($38,812,500 net). It provided for 1,047 military contingent personnel, 44 international staff, inclusive of 1 international staff position funded from general temporary assistance and 108 national staff, inclusive of 1 national staff position funded from general temporary assistance.

2. Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 25 of its report on the financing of UNDOF dated 13 April 2007 (A/61/852/Add.1), the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/287, appropriated an amount of $39,662,500 gross ($38,551,900 net) for the maintenance of the Force for 2007/08. The total amount has been assessed on Member States.

3. Subsequently, in his letters dated 31 July 2007 and 6 February 2008, the Controller informed the Advisory Committee that the Force had identified unforeseen operational requirements and the mission's projected expenditures would exceed by an estimated amount of $2,576,900 gross and net the appropriation of $39,662,500 gross approved by the General Assembly for UNDOF for the 2007/08 period in its resolution 61/287. The Controller informed the Advisory Committee that the overexpenditure would be reported to the Assembly in the context of the UNDOF budget performance report for the 2007/08 period, at which time additional appropriation and assessment would be sought from the Assembly.

II. Mandate performance

A. Overall

4. The mandate of the Force was established by the Security Council in its resolution 350 (1974) and extended by the Council in subsequent resolutions. The mandate for the performance period was provided by the Council in its resolutions 1759 (2007) and 1788 (2007).

5. The Force is mandated to help the Security Council achieve an overall objective, namely, to maintain international peace and security.

6. Within this overall objective, the Force has, during the performance report period, contributed to a number of accomplishments by delivering related key outputs, shown in the frameworks below for the operations and support components.

7. The present report assesses actual performance against the planned results-based-budgeting frameworks set out in the 2007/08 budget. In particular, the report compares the actual indicators of achievement, that is, the extent to which actual progress has been made during the period against the expected accomplishments, with the planned indicators of achievement, and the actually completed outputs with the planned outputs.

B. Budget implementation

8. The total expenditures for the maintenance of the Force for 2007/08 amounted to $42,179,700 gross ($40,990,100 net), representing additional requirements of $2,517,200 gross ($2,438,200 net), compared with the appropriation of $39,662,500 gross ($38,551,900 net) provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/287.

9. Additional expenditures incurred by UNDOF during the budget period were primarily attributable to a significant increase in the price of fuel, from $0.15 per litre provided in the budget to the actual average of $0.88 per litre, requirements for the payment of mission subsistence allowance to the Force staff officers owing to the implementation pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/276 of the revised staff officers support arrangements in effect from 1 July 2007, increased military personnel travel requirements owing to the higher air charter costs on the world market as a result of increases in fuel prices, implementation of two consecutive increases in the national staff salary scale effective 1 October 2006 and 1 July 2007, as well as the acquisition of three light armoured patrol vehicles and conversion of two armoured personnel carriers to ambulances in order to enhance the safety of mission personnel.

C. Regional mission cooperation

10. During the reporting period, the mission conducted bimonthly coordination meetings with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) to discuss and share information on regional operational conditions and the regional security situation, as well as with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the World Food Programme, and the Observer Group Golan, during which information was exchanged on the regional security situation.

D. Mission support initiatives

11. During the reporting period, the mission continued to provide full support to its military and substantive personnel in the implementation of the mandate of the Force and introduced measures intended to increase its operational efficiency and to benefit from the synergies derived from the joint participation in regional training activities. As a result of the centralization of transport workshops in Camp Faouar, requirements for the acquisition of vehicle workshop equipment were reduced by $13,900 compared with the budgeted provisions. The consolidation and virtualization of servers decreased the actual requirement for spare parts for servers while also improving the reliability of the systems and data by replication between the mission and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. The mission also participated in regional information technology training activities, thereby reducing training-related travel requirements.

E. Results-based-budgeting frameworks

Component 1: operations

12. During the reporting period, UNDOF continued to supervise the area of separation by means of fixed positions and patrols to monitor the exclusion of parties' military forces from it, as well as observed and protested minor violations to the relevant party. UNDOF adapted its operational activities as reflected in higher than planned special task person-days, troop-manned observation post person-days and rapid-reaction patrol person-days to monitor the increase in activities in proximity to the ceasefire line. The Force also continued its liaison with the parties in order to help maintain stability in its area of operations, and provided good offices to the parties.

13. In the area of separation, mines continued to pose a threat to UNDOF personnel and the local population. During the reporting period, the mine threat has increased owing to the long-term presence of the mines and the deterioration of their detonation systems. UNDOF continued to carry out operational mine clearance and remained available to support the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in activities to promote mine awareness among the civilian population.

Expected accomplishment 1.1: the parties act in accordance with and comply with the Disengagement Agreement

Planned indicators of achievement	*Actual indicators of achievement*
1.1.1 Separation of forces and areas of limitation maintained	No serious violations of the ceasefire agreement. 617 minor violations in the UNDOF area of responsibility protested to the relevant party

Planned outputs	*Completed (number or yes/no)*	*Remarks*
Weekly high-level meetings with the Syrian authorities; meetings with local Syrian officials, as needed	25	Meetings The output was lower than planned owing to unforeseen difficulties in scheduling meetings
Monthly high-level meetings with the Israel Defense Forces command	9	Meetings The output was lower than planned owing to unforeseen difficulties in scheduling meetings
Biweekly meetings with the Israel Defense Forces liaison staff	17	Meetings The output was lower than planned owing to unforeseen difficulties in scheduling meetings

39,420 special task person-days (54 troops x 2 platoons x 365 days) on armoured personnel carriers performing mobile operations; patrols; temporary checkpoints; security tasks, such as convoy security; and provision of support to other United Nations agencies	41,546	Special task person-days The output was higher owing to operational requirements and the participation of additional military personnel
15,330 troop-manned observation post person-days (2 troops x 21 posts x 365 days)	16,538	Troop-manned observation post person-days Higher output attributable to the manning of 4 additional temporary observation posts to monitor possible violations in the area of separation
5,110 rapid-reaction patrol person-days (2 troops x 7 patrol teams x 365 days)	6,188	Rapid reaction patrol person-days The output was higher owing to increased patrols in proximity to the ceasefire line
25,550 rapid-reaction patrol person-days (10 troops x 7 groups x 365 days)	28,001	Rapid reaction person-days The output was higher owing to increased patrols in proximity to the ceasefire line
730 special fact-finding team person-days (2 troops x 1 team x 365 days)	360	Special fact-finding team person-days Special fact-finding teams were sent out only as and when required
Biweekly inspections of the areas of limitation	28	Inspections completed on both sides of the area of limitation
Protests of all violations of the agreement	470	Violations in the area of separation protested by UNDOF to the relevant party
Two reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council	2	Reports
Immediate communications with the parties during crisis situations	Yes	Both parties showed a high degree of cooperation. Communications between UNDOF and both parties was timely and efficient
Provision of periodic secure escorts for passage, supervised by the International Committee of the Red Cross, of persons across the area of separation for humanitarian purposes	Yes	Assisted in 17 crossings for 1,910 persons

Expected accomplishment 1.2: reduced threat of mines in the area of separation

Planned indicators of achievement	*Actual indicators of achievement*
1.2.1 Zero persons killed/injured by mines and unexploded ordnance (2005/06: 1 person injured; 2006/07: 0 casualties; 2007/08: 0 casualties)	No casualties or injuries owing to mines and unexploded ordna

Planned outputs	*Completed (number or yes/no)*	*Remarks*
Clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance in the area of separation and continuous checking and clearing of patrol paths, as required	Yes	6 shells, 116 anti-tank mines, 12 anti-personnel mines, 4 fuses, 2 mortar shells and 1 head of artillery ammunition cleared
Provision of advice to the UNICEF mine awareness project, as requested	No	No requests received

Component 2: support

14. The General Assembly, in its resolution 61/287, decided to maintain a dedicated capacity in the Force for the Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping project and requested the Secretary-General to report thereon in the performance report for the period 2007/08. During the reporting period, the Geographic Information Services Unit functioned as an integrated civilian and military unit composed of 2 civilian (1 P-3 and 1 national General Service staff) and 1 military personnel. In the context of the GIS mapping project, 2,300 GIS maps were produced and distributed during the budget period in order to support policy decisions, situational awareness and for operational purposes, 20 site visits were conducted and a special network drive for personnel in the Joint Mission Analysis and the Joint Operations Centres was put in place. During the reporting period, the Geographic Information Services Unit has developed into an indispensable technical unit which supports policy decisions, situational awareness and operational activities of the military personnel in UNDOF and UNTSO-Observer Group Golan, within the area of separation and the area of limitation.

15. As detailed in the frameworks, during the reporting period, effective and efficient logistical, administrative and security support was provided to the mission. The mission implemented efficiency measures with respect to network services and road safety and introduced a cost-effective heating system. As a result of enhanced traffic awareness and strict monitoring and enforcement of traffic rules by the military police, the number of accidents has decreased dramatically. The consolidation and virtualization of servers resulted in the reduction of the number of servers in the mission, decreased operational costs related to the four-year server replacement cycle and consumption of spare parts for servers, while improving the reliability of the systems and data by replication between the mission and the United Nations Logistics Base. Owing to host Government regulations, where sale of equipment requires the authorization of the local customs office, the mission did not reach the 90 per cent target related to the value of disposed assets compared with the

value of written-off assets. At the same time, as reported in the frameworks, the mission improved its disposal of written-off assets. Owing to evolving operational requirements in the area of separation, three light armoured vehicles were procured and two armoured vehicles were converted to medical ambulances to ensure the safe transportation of injured personnel in case of emergency.

Expected accomplishment 2.1: effective and efficient logistical, administrative and security support to the mission

Planned indicators of achievement	*Actual indicators of achievement*
2.1.1 Increase of communications and information technology services uptime at the headquarters of Camp Faouar and Camp Ziouani, the representational office in Damascus and military positions (2005/06: 95 per cent; 2006/07: 97 per cent; 2007/08: 98 per cent)	Network services were operational and available at a rate of 98.5 per cent
2.1.2 Reduce the ratio of desktop printers to desktop computers to 1:4 (2005/06: 1:1.27; 2006/07: 1:3; 2007/08: 1:4)	Ratio of desktop printers to desktop computers reduced to 1:4
2.1.3 Reduction in the number of vehicle accidents with damage valued at more than $500 (2005/06: 96; 2006/07: 84; 2007/08: 50)	9 accidents in 2007/08 compared with 17 accidents in 2006/07 Reduction owing to traffic awareness and strict monitoring and enforcement of traffic rules by the military police, resulting in the difference between the actual and planned indicators of achievement
2.1.4 Increase in the value of assets disposed of compared with the value of assets written off (2005/06: 80 per cent; 2006/07: 85 per cent; 2007/08: 90 per cent)	Disposal of 84 per cent of assets written off during the 2007/08 period compared with 80 per cent in 2006/07 Lower than planned percentage increase was primarily a result of host Government regulations where the sale of equipment requires the authorization of the local customs office, with resulting delays in disposal

Planned outputs	*Completed (number or yes/no)*	*Remarks*
Service improvements		
Securing the data network by reducing intrusions and virus infections to zero throughout the mission area and reducing the risk of data corruption, which disrupts activities	Yes	No virus infections throughout the mission area and no data corruption or disruption of network activities

Planned outputs	*Completed (number or yes/no)*	*Remarks*
Implementation of a road safety training programme	Yes	954 military and civilian personnel participated in the road safety training programme, including maintenance training
Introduction of a cost-effective heating system by converting 55 heating systems from kerosene to diesel	55	Heating systems converted from kerosene to diesel
Implementation of an improved sales/disposal process in respect of written-off assets, including spare parts	Yes	Disposal of assets valued at $2.92 million out of written-off assets valued at $3.47 million in 2007/08, compared with the disposal of assets valued at $2.67 million out of written-off assets valued at $3.32 million in 2006/07 The mission established within the General Service Section a Disposal Unit to monitor and fast-track the sales process. The frequency of the bidding process was increased from 2 to 3 times a year, and all written-off items were included in the sale of disposed items list. The Disposal Unit also coordinated with the local customs office in obtaining clearance of disposed items to be sold to local vendors. As a result of close monitoring and liaising with external parties, improvement of the sales/disposal process was achieved
Military personnel		
Emplacement, rotation and repatriation of an authorized strength of 1,047 military personnel	1,051	Military personnel Output was higher than planned owing to the overlap of personnel on rotation for handover of duties and responsibilities
Supply and storage of rations to 2 camps and 21 positions for an authorized strength of 1,047 military personnel	2	Camps
	21	Positions
	1,051	Military personnel
Civilian personnel		
Administration of an authorized strength of 43 international and 107 national staff	39	Average strength of international personnel, including one under general temporary assistance
	105	Average strength of national staff, including one under general temporary assistance

Planned outputs	*Completed (number or yes/no)*	*Remarks*
Facilities and infrastructure		
Maintenance of facilities in Camp Faouar, Camp Ziouani, the representational office in Damascus, the military police detachment "C" in the area of separation, 21 area of separation positions and 8 outposts	Yes	Provided as planned
Renovation of the transport workshop at the representational office in Damascus, construction of generator huts at positions 17 and 31 and installation of septic tanks and fields at positions 17 and 32	Yes	Completion of construction of a generator hut at positions 17 and 31 and installation of septic tanks and fields at positions 17 and 32 Renovation of the transport workshop at the representational office in Damascus was not pursued owing to maintenance of a single workshop at Camp Faouar
Sanitation services for all premises, including sewage and garbage collection and disposal	Yes	Provided as planned
Operation and maintenance of 70 generators in 27 locations	79	Generators maintained
	27	Locations Output was higher owing to the replacement of 9 generators in May 2008, with old generators subject to write-off during the 2008/09 period
Repairs and maintenance of 8 kilometres of roads	Yes	Repair of 9.9 kilometres of roads was carried out to provide easy passage to the positions and outposts so as to increase operational efficiency and effectiveness
Maintenance of 14 water wells and filtration systems	14	Water wells and filtration systems maintained
Ground transportation		
Operation and maintenance of 387 vehicles, including 18 pieces of United Nations-owned equipment and 6 leased armoured personnel carriers	445	Vehicles, including 18 military armoured vehicles, 2 civilian armoured vehicles, 30 trailers and 69 vehicle attachments/flat racks Output was higher owing to the purchase of 3 additional mine hardened vehicles, and reporting of 55 vehicles subject to write-off during the 2008/09 period Six armoured personnel carriers envisaged under contingent-owned equipment arrangements were not provided by troop-contributing countries

Planned outputs	*Completed (number or yes/no)*	*Remarks*
Communications		
Support and maintenance of 11 private automatic branch exchanges, 1,100 telephone extensions, 2 satellite earth stations, 425 two-way mobile radios, 120 two-way very high frequency base station radios, 362 very high frequency handy-talkies, 22 very high frequency repeater stations and 33 microwave links	9	Private automatic branch exchanges Output was lower as a result of the increased integration of the voice and data infrastructure in the mission and the implementation of an Internet protocol telephone system
	1,100	Telephone extensions
	2	Satellite earth stations
	425	Two-way mobile radios
	120	Two-way very high frequency base station radios
	362	Very high frequency handy-talkies
	22	Very high frequency repeater stations
	33	Microwave links
Information technology		
Support and maintenance of wide area network, 55 servers, 405 desktop computers, 55 laptop computers, 158 laser printers and 38 scanners in 22 locations	47	Servers Output was reduced owing to the consolidation and virtualization of servers in order to reduce the mission's server holdings, reduce the operational cost by reducing the cost related to the 4 year server replacement cycle, as well as the cost of the spare parts for the servers, and improve reliability of the systems and data by replication between the mission and the United Nations Logistics Base
	405	Desktop computers
	56	Laptop computers (includes 1 computer pending write-off as at 30 June 2008)
	128	Laser printers Output was reduced owing to the implementation of the 1:4 printer to computer ratio
	38	Scanners
	22	Locations
		In addition:
	2,300	GIS maps produced and distributed

Planned outputs	*Completed (number or yes/no)*[1]	*Remarks*
	5	New map products developed
		Increased efficiency and effectiveness of information dissemination was achieved through establishment of automated map request system (allowing tracking of the map requests for both the requestor and the Geographic Information Services Unit)
	20	Site visits conducted
		Development of infrastructure to provide fieldwork maps in a special network drive for operational officers in the Joint Mission Analysis and the Joint Operations Centres
	2	Two-day training sessions for 42 military personnel and development of standard training material
Medical		
Operation and maintenance of three level-I medical centres (along with dental care) for personnel of UNDOF and UNTSO and the local civilian population in emergency cases	3	Level-I medical centres
		7,923 patients treated in UNDOF medical facilities, of whom 6,759 were outpatients, 746 were treated for dental care and 418 were inpatients who were treated at United Nations-owned equipment facilities provided by troop-contributing countries. In addition, 78 patients were referred to a specialist (level II) as outpatients and 66 were referred as inpatients to level II and III facilities outside the United Nations facilities
		Hygiene control of all UNDOF and UNTSO facilities was performed on a monthly basis and training for kitchen personnel in proper food handling and hygiene matters was conducted
		Over 6,000 parasitological, bacteriological, water and blood tests were performed by the UNDOF laboratory
		First aid training was performed each month, on average, especially for UNTSO personnel
Operation and maintenance of voluntary confidential HIV counselling and testing facilities for all personnel	Yes	Voluntary counselling and testing upon request
HIV sensitization programme for all mission personnel, including peer education	Yes	1,524 UNDOF personnel (including rotated military personnel)
		The HIV sensitization programme was implemented in the induction training for all United Nations personnel

Planned outputs	*Completed (number or yes/no)*	*Remarks*
Security		
Provision of security services, including threat assessment and risk management to Camp Faouar, Camp Ziouani, the representational office in Damascus, military police detachment "C" in the area of separation and 21 positions	Yes	In addition, security threat assessment and risk management information was provided by the Security Adviser through daily situation reports, briefings and updates to the Force Commander, the Chief of Staff and the Chief of Mission Support
Conduct of training exercises, encompassing procedures relating to security, nuclear, chemical and biological protection, shelter alarms and camp protection, induction security and primary fire training/drills for all new mission staff	Yes	For 1,306 participants, comprising UNDOF military and civilian staff, in 1,972 different training programmes and courses, including nuclear, chemical, biological protection, firefighting, shelter drills to familiarize personnel with shelter locations and procedures to enable them to respond to shelter alerts, guard training, training of ambulance personnel, training of military personnel assigned to the Engineering Section to work on engineering projects, defence training and shooting exercises for military personnel, dissemination of alert information, briefings on national law and order and mine detection training
Investigation of security incidents and provision of advice to mission personnel and their dependants and to the personnel of 9 United Nations agencies	Yes	211 incidents investigated (theft, burglary, damage to personal property, minor traffic accidents) Security assessments and situational forecasts in daily/monthly (travel) advisories and the weekly UNDOF security and safety situation reports Advice to 9 United Nations agencies in coordination with the Security Adviser (Designated Official) and during security cell meetings in Damascus
Military and civilian personnel		
Implementation of a conduct and discipline programme for all military and civilian personnel, including training, prevention, monitoring and recommendations on disciplinary action	Yes	1,247 personnel, including key personnel of all incoming military contingents, briefed on code of conduct, gender awareness, HIV/AIDS, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Civilian staff briefed during induction training No cases of sexual exploitation and abuse were reported during the period

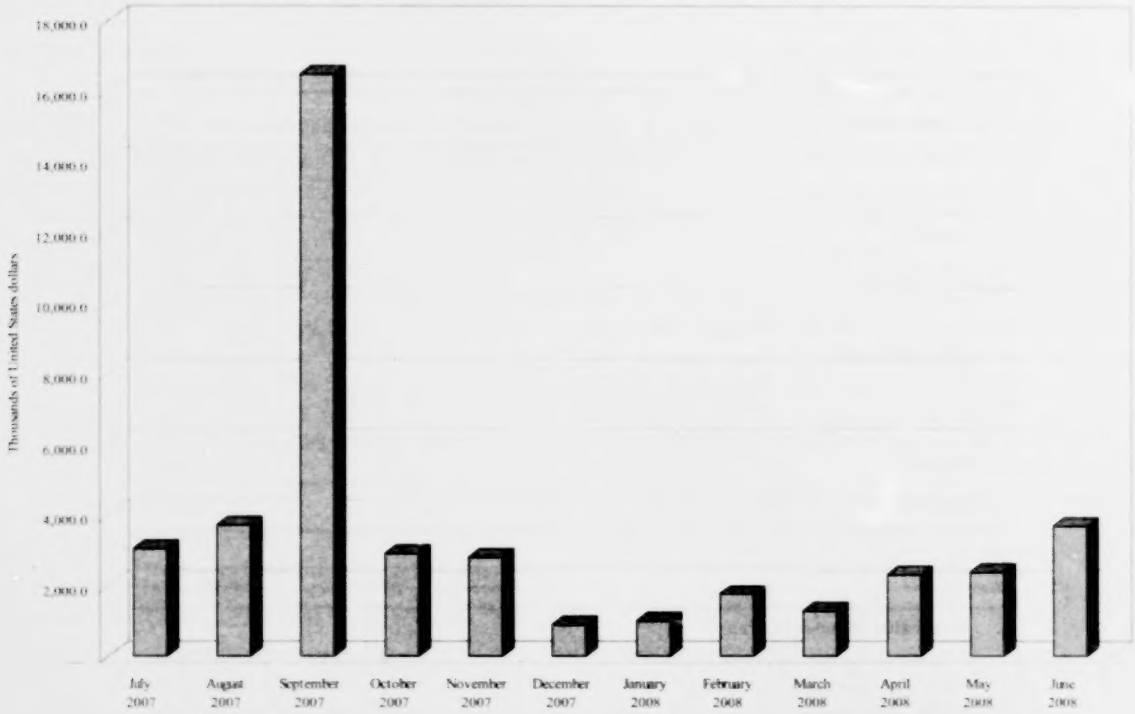
III. Resource performance

A. Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars. Budget year is from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.)

			Variance	
	Apportionment	*Expenditure*	*Amount*	*Percentage*
Category	*(1)*	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)=(3)÷(1)*
Military and police personnel				
Military observers	—	—	—	—
Military contingents	19 698.8	20 616.4	(917.6)	(4.7)
United Nations police	—	—	—	—
Formed police units	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	**19 698.8**	**20 616.4**	**(917.6)**	**(4.7)**
Civilian personnel				
International staff	6 231.5	5 587.8	643.7	10.3
National staff	2 379.8	2 768.0	(388.2)	(16.3)
United Nations Volunteers	—	—	—	—
General temporary assistance	115.4	172.4	(57.0)	(49.4)
Subtotal	**8 726.7**	**8 528.2**	**198.5**	**2.3**
Operational costs				
Government-provided personnel	—	—	—	—
Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—
Consultants	14.0	3.1	10.9	77.9
Official travel	338.6	244.3	94.3	27.8
Facilities and infrastructure	4 165.0	5 472.0	(1 307.0)	(31.4)
Ground transportation	3 235.5	4 087.4	(851.9)	(26.3)
Air transportation	—	—	—	—
Naval transportation	—	—	—	—
Communications	1 397.4	1 334.5	62.9	4.5
Information technology	795.4	744.0	51.4	6.5
Medical	411.5	349.4	62.1	15.1
Special equipment	166.1	134.6	31.5	19.0
Other supplies, services and equipment	713.5	665.8	47.7	6.7
Quick-impact projects	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	**11 237.0**	**13 035.1**	**(1 798.1)**	**(16.0)**
Gross requirements	**39 662.5**	**42 179.7**	**(2 517.2)**	**(6.3)**
Staff assessment income	1 110.6	1 189.6	(79.0)	(7.1)
Net requirements	**38 551.9**	**40 990.1**	**(2 438.2)**	**(6.3)**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	—	—	—	—
Total requirements	**39 662.5**	**42 179.7**	**(2 517.2)**	**(6.3)**

B. Monthly expenditure pattern



16. Higher expenditures for the month of September 2007 were attributable to the recording of obligations for reimbursement to troop-contributing Governments for troop costs and major equipment, and death and disability compensation in respect of military contingents.

C. Other income and adjustments

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*Amount*
Interest income	1 111.8
Other/miscellaneous income	344.4
Voluntary contributions in cash	—
Prior-period adjustments	—
Cancellation of prior-period obligations	620.0
Total	**2 076.2**

D. Expenditure for contingent-owned equipment: major equipment and self-sustainment

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*Expenditure*
Major equipment	
Military contingents	329.5
Formed police units	—
Subtotal	**329.5**
Self-sustainment	
Facilities and infrastructure	234.0
Communications	—
Medical	120.0
Special equipment	4.3
Subtotal	**358.3**
Total	**687.8**

Mission factors	*Percentage*	*Effective date*	*Last review date*
A. Applicable to mission area			
Extreme environmental condition factor	—	19 May 2003	19 January 2006
Intensified operational condition factor	—	19 May 2003	19 January 2006
Hostile action/forced abandonment factor	—	19 May 2003	19 January 2006
B. Applicable to home country			
Incremental transportation factor	0.25-1.5		

IV. Analysis of variances[1]

	Variance	
Military contingents	($917.6)	(4.7)%

17. The additional requirements under this heading were attributable mainly to increased requirements for the payment of mission subsistence allowance to staff officers, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/276, in lieu of reimbursement to the troop-contributing Government as that arrangement was discontinued effective 1 July 2007. The unforeseen repatriation of the personnel of one troop-contributing Government and their replacement by a new contingent in June 2008 combined with the settlement of an unanticipated claim for the repatriation of military contingent personnel from UNDOF in January and March 2006 contributed to increased requirements. In addition, the Mission experienced a higher actual average travel cost of $4,000 per military staff officer, round trip, compared with the

[1] Resource variance amounts are expressed in thousands of United States dollars. Analysis is provided for variances of at least plus or minus 5 per cent or $100,000.

budgeted $2,028 per person round trip owing to an increase in airfare costs in the commercial market.

	Variance	
International staff	$643.7	10.3%

18. The unspent balance resulted from a higher actual vacancy rate of 11.2 per cent compared with the budgeted vacancy rate of 7.0 per cent, combined with lower actual expenditures under common staff costs.

	Variance	
National staff	($388.2)	(16.3)%

19. The additional requirements under this heading were due to the implementation of two consecutive revised national staff salary scales, effective 1 October 2006 and 1 July 2007 (the budgetary provisions were based on a salary scale in effect from 1 October 2005), combined with the lower average United States dollar exchange rate as national staff salaries are payable in the local currency.

	Variance	
General temporary assistance	($57.0)	(49.4)%

20. Additional requirements under this heading were attributable to the engagement of one P-3 and one national General Service staff for the full 2007/08 period in order to establish a dedicated capacity in the Force for the GIS mapping project in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/287 (provisions in the proposed budget were made for six months).

	Variance	
Consultants	$10.9	77.9%

21. The unutilized balance resulted from the availability of UNMIL staff to conduct performance management training, which obviated the need to engage external consultants as was provided for in the budget.

	Variance	
Official travel	$94.3	27.8%

22. The unutilized balance under this heading was primarily attributable to the non-utilization of the official travel provision for the Senior Mission Administration and Resource Training Programme of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as the travel was funded by United Nations Headquarters, as well as to the cancellation of planned official travel to New York for the review of the mission's budget, as it was conducted via videoteleconference.

23. The reduced requirements were offset in part by additional requirement for training mainly owing to the increase in air fares in the international market as a result of the global impact of the increase in fuel prices.

	Variance	
Facilities and infrastructure	($1,307.0)	(31.4)%

24. The additional expenditures incurred under this heading were attributable mainly to the significant increase in the cost of fuel, from $0.15 per litre provided for in the budget to the actual average of $0.88 per litre.

	Variance	
Ground transportation	($851.9)	(26.3)%

25. The additional expenditures incurred under this heading were attributable to the acquisition of three light armoured patrol vehicles and the conversion of two armoured personnel carriers to ambulances in order to enhance the safety of mission personnel, and the significant increase in the price of fuel.

26. Additional requirements were offset in part by lower consumption of spare parts owing to the implementation of a just-in-time delivery of spare parts, the reduction in the number of accidents and the acquisition of spare parts on the local market at a favourable cost.

	Variance	
Information technology	$51.4	6.5%

27. The unutilized balance was attributable to the employment of a national contractor for the maintenance of personal computers in lieu of a less cost-effective service contract provided for in the budget, favourable prices obtained by acquiring software licences centrally and reduced actual consumption of spare parts as the number of servers in the mission was reduced using server virtualization.

	Variance	
Medical	$62.1	15.1%

28. The unspent balance resulted mainly from the non-utilization of the funds budgeted for the acquisition of avian influenza antiviral medications owing to their availability in stock, as well as fewer hospitalizations and lower actual expenditures for the reimbursement to troop-contributing countries for self-sustainment costs.

	Variance	
Special equipment	$31.5	19.0%

29. The unspent balance was attributable to the continued use of the explosive ordnance disposal protective gear acquired in the prior period.

	Variance	
Other supplies, services and equipment	$47.7	6.7%

30. The unutilized balance was attributable primarily to reduced requirements for operational maps because of the internal production of the required maps by the Geographic Information System Unit, as well as lower actual requirements for freight charges resulting from favourable prices obtained on the local market.

31. Reduced requirements were offset in part by the recording in the mission's accounts of a loss on exchange resulting from the fluctuation of the United States dollar.

V. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

32. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNDOF are:**

(a) **To appropriate and assess an additional amount of $2,517,200 with respect to the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;**

(b) **To decide on the treatment of other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $2,076,200 from interest income ($1,111,800), other/miscellaneous income ($344,400) and cancellation of prior-period obligations ($620,000).**

United Nations A/63/522–S/2008/691

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 November 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 83
Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 6 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to address you and to convey to you the concern and disappointment of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia regarding the recent events that took place in Thessalonica, Greece, on 28 October 2008, during the military parade on the occasion of the national day commemorating the refusal of Greece to join the fascist ideology in 1940.

Unfortunately, instead of having a parade where the values of the world civilization, justice, rights and freedoms of peoples should have been demonstrated, the Thessalonica parade, four years in a row, has been turned into a parade of demonstration of open nationalism, chauvinism and xenophobia aimed at the people of the Republic of Macedonia. Also, an even greater concern, is the fact that this event is a continuation in the series of provocations on the part of Greece in the past period.

Furthermore, today, when the negotiations on the name dispute have reached their critical point since the time of their commencement, the military forces of Greece, in front of Greece's governmental elite, and in the presence of the President of the country, Karolos Papulias, the Minister of Defence, Evangelos Meimarakis, the President of PASOK, Jorgos Papandreu, Prefect, Panaiotis Psomiadis, the Mayor of Thessalonica, Vasilis Papageorgopulos, and Metropolitan Antimos, as well as the accredited diplomatic core and military attachés in Greece, the Ministers of Defence of Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey and Montenegro, and the Deputy Ministers of Defence of Croatia, Bulgaria, Serbia and Albania, have shown great State nationalism and provocation directed against the Republic of Macedonia, shouting out slogans: "We will not give the name to the Skopjanians", "Macedonia is Greek", and even worse, "Your sons are waiting for an order".

The horrible image, publicly shown of this manifestation in a country considered to be the cradle of democracy, member State of the North Atlantic Treaty

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Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU), broadcast on the national television network ET 1 TV, was complemented by the official address of the President of the War Veterans to the Greek nation, who, at the end of the parade, among other things said: "You can find yourselves with the Skopjanians again on the first line", which is not appropriate rhetoric by itself.

Since its independence, the Republic of Macedonia has invested a great amount in the building of good-neighbourly relations, actively contributing to regional peace and stability. The Republic of Macedonia has never been an initiator or instigator of any security incidents with its neighbours, including Greece.

The Republic of Macedonia strongly condemns all shows of outburst that contain hatred, xenophobia and intolerance. Such activities have never contributed to the building of good-neighbourly relations, which is one of the fundamental values of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, NATO and EU, as well as to the confidence between the two countries.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Slobodan **Tasovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations

United Nations A/63/523

General Assembly

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7 November 2008
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Original: Spanish

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 5 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit the response of the Argentine Republic to the reply by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations to the statement made by Dr. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of Argentina, on 23 September 2008 during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

On 28 September 2008, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by Dr. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, the President of Argentina, on 23 September 2008 during the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, requested the circulation of a note (A/63/468) and of its annex.

The Government of the Argentine Republic strongly rejects the unfounded and offensive expressions used in the above-mentioned Iranian statement against the President of Argentina and head of the Argentine judiciary.

The Argentine Republic was the target of two serious terrorist attacks, which took a tragic toll with dozens of persons killed and wounded: in 1992, against the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires and in 1994 against the headquarters of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA).

In the context of the investigation conducted by the Argentine judicial authorities, the INTERPOL General Assembly, held in November 2007, issued an international arrest warrant for five Iranian nationals involved in the attack against AMIA, thus endorsing our country's position, based on the principles of international law and on international judicial cooperation.

In her statement during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, the President strongly requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with the norms of international law and allow the Argentine judicial authorities to hold a public and transparent trial, with the guarantees provided by a democratic system, of the Iranian nationals accused of participating in the attack against AMIA. The President

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also urged Iran to grant the request made by the Argentine judicial authorities and supported by INTERPOL, which would help to shed light on this attack.

The Argentine Republic once again urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate fully with the Argentine judicial authorities in order to elucidate the horrible attack against AMIA, in the belief that this will make a valuable contribution to justice and to full respect for human rights and human dignity.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this note as an official document of the General Assembly.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure: 1 diskette.

United Nations A/63/524

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 118
Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report of the Secretary-General on the standards of accommodation for air travel is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 42/214, 45/218 A and decisions 44/442 and 46/450, as well as decision 57/589, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it on a biennial basis. The present report provides information on standards of accommodation for air travel for the two-year period ended 30 June 2008 and comparative statistics for the two-year period ended 30 June 2006.

* The document was submitted after the established deadline owing to the need for consultation with various departments and offices in the collection and collation of the information needed for the report.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations standards of accommodation for air travel are governed by a series of General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including resolutions 42/214, 45/248 A and 53/214 and decisions 40/555, 44/442, 46/450 and 57/589. Pursuant to the discretionary authority vested in the Secretary-General to authorize exceptions to air travel on a case-by-case basis and business-class travel by air in special circumstances that warrant it, the Secretary-General promulgated administrative instruction ST/AI/2006/4 for the purpose of implementing the various staff rules relating to the standards of accommodation for air travel and the exceptions thereto.

2. In the past, certain categories of exceptions to the standards have been established, including, but not limited to, the following: travel of eminent persons; travel of prominent individuals who are donating their services to the Organization free of charge; travel under circumstances that have been deemed to be arduous or under which, for medical reasons, it has been deemed appropriate to upgrade the accommodation of air travel; travel of security officials travelling with the Secretary-General, his wife, or any other official authorized to travel above the standard accommodation that would normally be provided; and travel under circumstances when the normal standard of accommodation is not available and it is considered prudent to authorize an upgrade.

II. Travel of delegations

3. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/214, payment of first-class accommodation by air is limited to the heads of delegations of the least developed countries to the regular and special sessions of the Assembly. During the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2006, 60 first-class trips were approved for the travel of such representatives, at a cost of $496,602, compared with 33 trips during the two-year period ended 30 June 2008, at a cost of $334,105.

III. Travel of the President of the General Assembly

4. To strengthen the ability of the President of the General Assembly to effectively and efficiently discharge the responsibilities of the Office, the Assembly, by its resolution 53/214, decided that its President, consistent with the approved programme budget, should have full authority to use the funds provided in the budget for the Office. During the reporting period, six trips were approved and incurred an additional cost of $21,466. Detailed information on travel authorized by the President is provided in annex VII to the present report.

IV. Exceptions authorized by the Secretary-General

5. By General Assembly resolution 42/214, the Secretary-General was authorized to exercise his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class air travel on a case-by-case basis. Such discretionary authority is also exercised in accordance with paragraph 4.5 of ST/AI/2006/4 when, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, special circumstances warrant it, including making exceptions to allow business-

class air travel on a case-by-case basis. In exercising such authority, the Secretary-General takes into consideration, inter alia, the following circumstances:

(a) A medical condition that may necessitate a level of comfort not available in the standard of accommodation to which the traveller is entitled. Such cases are referred to the Director of the Medical Services Division for recommendation. Advanced age alone is not considered sufficient justification to grant an exception;

(b) The normal standard of accommodation is unavailable and, owing to the exigencies of service, the traveller is required to travel on a particular date. Cases also arise when accommodation at the normal standard of entitlement is not available and the cost of a daily subsistence allowance, while the traveller waits for the next available seat, would be greater than the higher standard of travel;

(c) The traveller is considered an eminent person, such as a former Head of State, or a prominent international figure in the political, humanitarian or cultural arenas;

(d) The traveller is a prominent person who is donating his or her services free of charge to the Organization and, in some cases, at a loss in personal income. Such individuals may be accorded the standard of accommodation to which they are accustomed;

(e) The traveller, after completing a full day of work, is required to travel through the night in order to resume work, attend meetings or present a paper at another location on the following morning or immediately upon arrival. Where such cases involve arduous journeys, it has been deemed reasonable that the standard of accommodation accorded the traveller should provide the best rest possible while travelling, or provide the conditions most conducive to work while flying, or both;

(f) The traveller provides security services to the Secretary-General, his wife or to any other official authorized to travel above the standard accommodation that would normally be provided.

6. On 18 March 1998, the Secretary-General decided that, as an exception, all travel of the Deputy Secretary-General should be in first class, in keeping with his/her special status. With regard to practical arrangements, efforts are first made to obtain upgrades to first class against payment of the full business-class fare. Where this is not feasible, the first-class fare is paid.

7. A summary of the exceptions authorized in respect of the United Nations Secretariat during the period under review is contained in table 1 below and a summary of those authorized during the two-year period ended 30 June 2006 appears in table 2. Annexes I to VI to the present report provide detailed information on the number, nature, reason and the additional cost of the exceptions authorized during the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2008.

8. A summary of the exceptions authorized in respect of other United Nations entities for the period under review is contained in table 3 below and a summary of those authorized during the two-year period ended 30 June 2006 appears in table 4. Details of exceptions authorized during the two-year period ended 30 June 2008 for the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the United Nations University for the current period are contained in annexes VIII, IX, X and XI, respectively.

9. The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.

Table 1
Summary of exceptions, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008, United Nations
(Cost in United States dollars)

	First class		*Business class*		*Total*			
Reason for exception	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Regular budget*	*Other*
Medical condition	5	17 232	40	65 580	45	82 812	37 286	45 526
Normal standard of accommodation not available	1	1 800	13	3 820	14	5 620	3 592	2 028
Eminent person	0	0	35	66 319	35	66 319	46 841	19 478
Prominent person donating services free of charge to the Organization	1	3 304	26	37 449	27	40 753	12 060	28 693
Arduous journey	0	0	1	750	1	750	0	750
Security officer	49	160 195	7	12 304	56	172 499	170 579	1 920
Deputy Secretary-General	17	61 683	0	0	17	61 683	61 683	0
Subtotal	**73**	**244 214**	**122**	**186 222**	**195**	**430 436**	**332 041**	**98 395**
Authorized by the President of the General Assembly	6	21 466	0	0	6	21 466	21 466	0
Total	**79**	**265 680**	**122**	**186 222**	**201**	**451 902**	**353 507**	**98 395**

Table 2
Summary of exceptions, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006, United Nations
(Cost in United States dollars)

	First class		*Business class*		*Total*			
Reason for exception	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Regular budget*	*Other*
Medical condition	5	22 848	55	81 702	60	104 550	35 739	68 811
Normal standard of accommodation not available	3	882	13	6 075	16	6 957	1 879	5 078
Eminent person	11	45 737	6	4 219	17	49 956	6 328	43 628
Prominent person donating services free of charge to the Organization	0	0	22	39 916	22	39 916	15 300	24 616
Arduous journey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal aide/security officer	29	114 729	2	1 230	31	115 959	115 959	0
Deputy Secretary-General	9	26 337	0	0	9	26 337	26 337	0
Subtotal	**57**	**210 533**	**98**	**133 142**	**155**	**343 675**	**201 542**	**142 133**
Authorized by the President of the General Assembly	15	24 378	0	0	15	24 378	24 378	0
Total	**72**	**234 911**	**98**	**133 142**	**170**	**368 053**	**225 920**	**142 133**

Table 3
Summary of exceptions, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008: other United Nations entities
(Cost in United States dollars)

	First class		*Business class*		*Total*	
Reason for exception	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*
Medical condition	0	0	16	35 566	16	35 566
Normal standard of accommodation not available	0	0	1	2 354	1	2 354
Eminent person	1	2 387	7	12 821	8	15 208
Prominent person donating services free of charge to the Organization	2	448	15	32 176	17	32624
Arduous journey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**3**	**2 835**	**39**	**82 917**	**42**	**85 752**

Table 4
Summary of exceptions, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006: other United Nations entities
(Cost in United States dollars)

	First class		*Business class*		*Total*	
Reason for exception	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*
Medical condition	1	3 130	26	45 387	27	48 517
Normal standard of accommodation not available	1	426	2	1 991	3	2 417
Eminent person	3	12 229	2	3 070	5	15 299
Prominent person donating services free of charge to the Organization	0	0	7	9 912	7	9 912
Arduous journey	0	0	3	4 320	3	4 320
Other	0	0	2	3 412	2	3 412
Total	**5**	**15 785**	**42**	**68 092**	**47**	**83 877**

Annex I

Exceptions authorized owing to medical conditions, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
A. First class		
1. Staff member, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Amsterdam/Zurich/ New York/Zurich/Amsterdam	1 600
2. Staff member, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Amsterdam/Zurich/ New York/Zurich/Amsterdam	2 300
3. Staff member, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Amsterdam/Zurich/ New York/Zurich/Amsterdam	2 872
4. Staff member, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Hague/Phnom Penh/Hague	9 200
5. Staff member, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Amsterdam/Zurich/ New York/Amsterdam	1 260
Subtotal		**17 232**
B. Business class		
1. Staff member, Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Kinshasa/Johannesburg/ Kinshasa	551
2. Staff member, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	.../Barcelona/New York	1 295
3. Staff member, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	New York/Geneva	1 806
4. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 177
5. Staff member, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	Santiago/Mexico City/ Santiago	3 296
6. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	New York/Geneva/New York	2 173
7. Staff member, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Geneva/Dubai/Geneva	1 893
8. Staff member, ECLAC	Santiago/Quito/Santiago	456
9. Staff member, OHCHR	Geneva/Bucharest/Geneva	1 131
10. Staff member, UNHCR	Geneva/New York/Geneva	772
11. Chairperson, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel	Quito/Miami/.../Miami/Quito	224
12. Chairperson, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel	Quito/.../Miami/Quito	224
13. Staff member, United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq	.../Nairobi/Dubai/Amman	678
14. Chairperson, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel	Quito/Miami/.../Miami/Quito	280

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
15. Member, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel	Copenhagen/Washington, D.C./ Frankfurt/Copenhagen	765
16. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	New York/Dakar/New York	3 892
17. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 119
18. Staff member, ECLAC	Santiago/Mexico City/ Guatemala/Mexico City/ Santiago	3 648
19. Chairperson, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel	Amsterdam/Paris/Amsterdam	195
20. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	New York/Geneva/New York	2 385
21. Staff member, ECLAC	Santiago/Quito/Santiago	838
22. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	New York/Geneva/Montreux/ Geneva/New York	2 465
23. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	New York/Geneva/New York	923
24. Staff member, Department of Economic and Social Affairs	New York/Paris/New York	812
25. Contingent member, United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS)	Khartoum/Nairobi	240
26. Witness, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Montreal/Amsterdam/ Montreal	3 717
27. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	New York/Geneva/Montreux/ Geneva/New York	2 545
28. Special Police Officer, United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)	Pristina/Istanbul/Karachi	342
29. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	New York/Dakar/New York	5 783
30. Special Police Officer, UNMIK	Pristina/Budapest/Warsaw	404
31. Consultant, Department of Economic and Social Affairs	London/New York/London	1 861
32. Staff member, UNMIS	Khartoum/Dubai/Khartoum	659
33. Civilian Police Officer, UNMIK	Pristina/Vienna/Gothenberg	205
34. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	New York/Geneva/New York	2 794
35. Witness, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Montreal/Amsterdam/ Montreal	5 325
36. Staff member, Department of Economic and Social Affairs	New York/Paris/New York	2 200
37. Staff member, UNHCR	Geneva/Beirut/Geneva	928
38. Staff member, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	New York/Geneva/New York	2 704

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
39. Staff member, OHCHR	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 332
40. Staff member, Department of Field Support	Sharm el-Sheikh/Geneva/ New York	1 543
Subtotal		**65 580**
Total		**82 812**

[a] The ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that for some legs the normal standard of accommodation applied and no exception was involved.

Annex II

Exceptions authorized owing to the unavailability of normal standard of accommodation, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
A. First class		
To deliver Secretary-General's message at the opening of the Regional High-level Consultation on United Nations System-wide Coherence		
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs	.../Paris/Jakarta/...	1 800
Subtotal		**1 800**
B. Business class		
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Training		
1. Staff member, UNHCR	.../Damascus/Riyadh/...	69
UNHCR Workshop on Standards and Indicators		
2. Staff member, UNHCR	Bogota/San Jose/Bogota	278
3. Staff member, UNHCR	Bogota/San Jose/Bogota	278
4. Staff member, UNHCR	Bogota/San Jose/Bogota	278
5. Staff member, UNHCR	Bogota/San Jose/Bogota	278
Middle East crisis intervention mission		
6. Staff member, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)	Amman/Cairo/Amman	250
7. Staff member, UNTSO	Amman/Cairo/Amman	250
8. Staff member, UNTSO	Amman/Cairo/Amman	250
9. Staff member, UNTSO	Amman/Cairo/Amman	250
10. Staff member, UNTSO	Amman/Cairo/Amman	250
United Nations Democracy Fund Board meeting		
11. Alternate Board member, United Nations Democracy Fund	Bogota/New York/Bogota	169
High-level mission of the Human Rights Council		
12. Freelance Interpreter	Paris/N'Djamena/...	542
United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team		
13. Consultant, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Los Angeles/Belize/...	678
Subtotal		**3 820**
Total		**5 620**

[a] The ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that for some legs the normal standard of accommodation applied and no exception was involved.

Annex III

Exceptions authorized owing to the eminence of the traveller, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
A. First class		
No exceptions authorized		0
Subtotal		**0**
B. Business class		
Interview for senior-level position and travel of senior officials-designate		
1. Candidate	Georgetown/New York/ Amsterdam	1 551
2. Under-Secretary-General-designate, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Paris/New York/Paris	4 864
3. Under-Secretary-General-designate, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Paris/Geneva/Paris	316
4. Under-Secretary-General-designate, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Paris/Oslo/New York/Paris	4 315
5. Under-Secretary-General-designate, Department of Public Information	Paris/New York/Paris	4 031
6. Candidate	Paris/New York/Paris	4 560
7. Candidate	Frankfurt/New York/Frankfurt	3 674
8. Candidate	Jakarta/New York/Jakarta	6 142
9. Candidate	Dakar/New York/Dakar	3 972
10. Candidate	Paris/New York/Paris	6 741
11. Candidate	Orlando/New York/Orlando	782
12. Candidate	Copenhagen/New York/Oslo	5 141
United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials		
13. International Supreme Court Chamber Judge	Colombo/Phnom Penh/ Colombo	434
14. International Supreme Court Chamber Judge	Colombo/Bangkok/Colombo	143
15. International Supreme Court Chamber Judge	Tokyo/Bangkok/Tokyo	1 406
16. International Supreme Court Chamber Judge	Colombo/Phnom Penh/ Colombo	467
17. International Supreme Court Chamber Judge	Tokyo/Phnom Penh/Tokyo	1 580
18. International Supreme Court Chamber Judge	Tokyo/Phnom Penh/Tokyo	1 580
19. International Supreme Court Chamber Judge	Tokyo/Phnom Penh/Tokyo	585
20. International Supreme Court Chamber Judge	Colombo/Phnom Penh/ Colombo	260

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Juba Peace Process		
21. African Observer and Minister, Government of Mozambique	Maputo/Johannesburg/ Entebbe/Juba/Entebbe/ Johannesburg	2 130
22. African Observer and General, Government of South Africa	Johannesburg/Entebbe/Juba/ Entebbe/Johannesburg	1 406
23. African Observer and Minister, Government of the United Republic of Tanzania	Dar es Salaam/Entebbe/Juba/ Entebbe/Dar es Salaam	392
24. African Observer and General, Government of South Africa	Johannesburg/Entebbe/ Johannesburg	1 371
25. African Observer and Minister, Government of Mozambique	Maputo/Entebbe/Maputo	1 787
26. African Observer and Minister, Government of the United Republic of Tanzania	Dar es Salaam/Entebbe/ Dar es Salaam	392
Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development		
27. Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania	Dar es Salaam/Addis Ababa/ Dar es Salaam	538
28. Witness and former Ambassador	New York/Amsterdam/ New York	2 247
29. Witness and former Vice-President	Belgrade/Amsterdam/ Belgrade	270
30. Witness and former President	Podgorica/Amsterdam/ Podgorica	290
31. Witness and former Minister of Foreign Affairs	Belgrade/Amsterdam/ Belgrade	270
Ministerial Conference on Making Globalization Work for the Least Developed Countries		
32. Minister and Head of Delegation, Sudan	Khartoum/Istanbul/Khartoum	686
Twelfth session of the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Subregional Organizations		
33. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Government of Vanuatu	Port Vila/Noumea/Port Vila	694
34. Minister for Revenue, Government of Samoa	Apia/Noumea/Apia	550
Other		
35. Former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs	Oslo/New York/Oslo	752
Subtotal		**66 319**
Total		**66 319**

Annex IV

Exceptions authorized owing to the donation of services free of charge to the Organization by a prominent traveller, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
A. First class		
High-level Group on the Alliance of Civilizations		
Former Prime Minister, Senegal	Dakar/London/Dakar	3 304
Subtotal		**3 304**
B. Business class		
United Nations Democracy Fund Advisory Board Meeting		
1. Chairperson, United Nations Democracy Fund	Frankfurt/New York/Amman	1 834
Travel on behalf of the Trade and Development Board		
2. President, Trade and Development Board and Ambassador of Mauritania	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 095
3. President, Trade and Development Board and Ambassador of Mauritania	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 113
4. President, Trade and Development Board and Ambassador of Bulgaria	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 512
5. President, Trade and Development Board and Ambassador of Bulgaria	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 426
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Senior Judges Group		
6. Chairperson, Supreme Court of the Russian Federation	Moscow/Geneva/Moscow	814
7. Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Israel	Jerusalem/Geneva/Jerusalem	810
8. Deputy Chief Justice, Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt	Cairo/Geneva/Cairo	618
To attend the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development		
9. Panellist and former Minister of State, India	Delhi/Addis Ababa/Mumbai/ Delhi	677
10. Panellist and Special Adviser to the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania	Dar es Salaam/Addis Ababa/ Dar es Salaam	538
11. Panellist and Special Assistant to the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania	Dar es Salaam/Addis Ababa/ Dar es Salaam	538
UNHCR — launch of book		
12. Writer and Nobel prize winner	Bonn/London/Geneva	67
High-level Meeting on the mid-term global review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010		
13. Principal Resource Person and Minister of Commerce, Senegal	Dakar/New York/Dakar	360

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Fifty-third session of the Trade and Development Board		
14. Resource Person and Goodwill Ambassador	Dakar/Geneva/Dakar	2 625
Expert Meeting on the Participation of the Developing Countries in New Dynamic Sectors of World Trade: Review of the Energy Sector		
15. Minister, Senegal	Dakar/Geneva/Dakar	2 345
To collaborate on the drafting of official guidance on consolidation, drawdown and withdrawal		
16. Expert and Brigadier General, British Armed Forces	London/New York/London	5 229
International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust		
17. Keynote Speaker and President of the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah	Paris/New York/Paris	5 146
UNMOVIC plenary session of the College of Commissioners		
18. Commissioner and Ambassador of Senegal to Germany	Berlin/New York/Berlin	1 336
Seminar on Preventing the Spread of Weapons to Non-State Armed Groups		
19. Ambassador, Professor at the Hebrew University	Tel Aviv/Geneva/Tel Aviv	495
African Regional Consultation Meeting on the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights		
20. Keynote speaker and Justice, Constitutional Court of South Africa	Johannesburg/Cairo/ Johannesburg	709
21. Spouse of Justice, Constitutional Court of South Africa	Johannesburg/Cairo/ Johannesburg	709
African Union senior leadership course		
22. Former Under-Secretary-General and former Permanent Representative to the United Nations	Dar es Salaam/Abuja/ Dar es Salaam	386
Fact-finding mission authorized by Human Rights Council resolution S-3/1		
23. High-level expert	London/Cairo/London	892
24. High-level expert	London/Cairo/London	1 474
General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Trafficking		
25. Founding member, Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement	Geneva/New York/Geneva	4 233
Other		
16. Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden	Stockholm/New York/ Stockholm	468
Subtotal		**37 449**
Total		**40 753**

Annex V

Exceptions authorized for arduous journey, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Business class		
Other		
Project Manager, Angola Recovery Project, Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Johannesburg/Lusaka/ Johannesburg/Windhoek/ Johannesburg	750
Total		**750**

Annex VI

Authorized travel of the Deputy Secretary-General, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
First class		
1. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Geneva/Kuwait/.../New York	5 418
2. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Abu Dhabi/New York	6 023
3. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Washington, D.C./New York	693
4. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Washington, D.C./New York	508
5. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Bonn/Strasbourg/Brussels/New York	1 797
6. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Boston/New York	647
7. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Geneva/Kinshasa/Brazzaville/New York	6 530
8. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Vienna/Accra/Bissau/Nairobi/New York	3 117
9. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Oslo/London/Rome/Turin/New York	4 155
10. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Addis Ababa/New York	2 743
11. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Tel Aviv/Geneva/New York	2 885
12. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Cairo/Alexandria/New York	4 997
13. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Vienna/Brussels/New York	4 913
14. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Capetown/Copenhagen/New York	2 268
15. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Bern/New York	4 085
16. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Hiroshima/Yokohama/New York	5 742
17. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Sharm el-Sheikh/New York	5 162
Total		**61 683**

[a] The ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that for some legs the normal standard of accommodation applied and no exception was involved.

Annex VII

Travel authorized by the President of the General Assembly, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
First class		
General Assembly President, sixty-first session	New York/Doha/Paris/ New York	4 285
General Assembly President, sixty-first session	New York/Paris/New York	5 228
General Assembly President, sixty-first session	New York/Washington, D.C./ New York	693
General Assembly President, sixty-first session	.../Doha/Beijing/New York	3 240
General Assembly President, sixty-first session	New York/Geneva/Istanbul/ Tunis/New York	6 702
General Assembly President, sixty-second session	New York/Brussels/Essen/ New York	1 318
Total		**21 466**

[a] The ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that for some legs the normal standard of accommodation applied and no exception was involved.

Annex VIII

Exceptions authorized for the United Nations Development Programme, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Exceptions authorized owing to medical conditions		
Business class		
1. Staff member, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	New York/Stockholm/ Geneva/New York	1 298
2. Staff member, UNDP	New York/Paris/...	1 155
3. Staff member, UNDP	New York/Dakar/New York	3 688
4. Staff member, United Nations Development Fund for Women	New York/Dublin/New York	1 579
5. Staff member, UNDP	New York/London/New York	1 700
6. Staff member, UNDP	.../Oslo/New York	3 325
7. Consultant, UNDP	Kuala Lumpur/Delhi/ Chennai/Trivandrum/.../ Bangalore/Kuala Lumpur	713
8. Staff member, UNDP	Vienna/Mumbai/Delhi/Vienna	2 823
Total		**16 281**
Exceptions authorized when the normal standard of accommodation was not available		
Business class		
Staff member, UNDP	New York/Copenhagen/ New York	2 354
Total		**2 354**
Exceptions authorized for eminent persons		
Business class		
1. Nobel Laureate, Economist	San Francisco/New York/ San Francisco	103
2. Former Prime Minister of Hungary	London/New York/London	2 285
3. Former President of the United Republic Tanzania	Dar es Salaam/Addis Ababa/ Dar es Salaam	274
4. Former President of Sri Lanka	London/Antigua/London	3 230
5. Former Prime Minister of Jamaica	Jamaica/Antigua/Jamaica	323
6. Assistant Secretary-General-designate, UNDP	Washington, D.C./Geneva/ Washington, D.C.	3 106
7. Former United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees	Washington, D.C./Geneva/ Washington, D.C.	3 500
Total		**12 821**

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Exceptions authorized for prominent persons donating their services free of charge to the Organization		
Business class		
1. Artist	Paris/New York/Paris	4 408
2. Artist	Paris/New York/Paris	5 104
3. Social Development Adviser, Department for International Development, United Kingdom	London/Entebbe/...	1 300
4. Professor, University of Geneva	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 959
5. Former Minister of Finance, Sweden	Stockholm/New York/ Stockholm	845
6. Former Minister of International Development, Norway	Oslo/New York/Oslo	873
7. Former Secretary of State, United States of America	Washington, D.C./New York/ Washington, D.C.	154
8. Director, Graduate Institute of Development Studies	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 200
9. Professor	Oslo/New York/Oslo	3 638
10. Former Assistant Secretary-General	New York/Geneva/New York	4 785
11. Former Minister of Finance, Sweden	Stockholm/New York/ Stockholm	3 225
12. Former Chief Executive Officer, Civicus, in South Africa	Amsterdam/New York/ Amsterdam	2 326
13. Secretary-General, Amnesty International, Germany	Berlin/New York/Berlin	1 758
14. President, High Court of Benin	Dar es Salaam/Addis Ababa/ Dar es Salaam	274
Total		**31 849**
Total UNDP		**63 305**

[a] The ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that for some legs the normal standard of accommodation applied and no exception was involved.

Annex IX

Exceptions authorized for the United Nations Children's Fund, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Exceptions authorized owing to medical conditions		
Business class		
1. Staff member, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	New York/Geneva/New York	2 810
2. Staff member, UNICEF	New York/Geneva/New York	2 792
3. Staff member, UNICEF	New York/Geneva/New York	2 547
4. Staff member, UNICEF	New York/Geneva/New York	1 679
5. Staff member, UNICEF	New York/Geneva/New York	2 968
6. Staff member, UNICEF	New York/Geneva/New York	2 793
7. Staff member, UNICEF	New York/Geneva/New York	1 696
Total		**17 285**
Exceptions authorized for prominent persons donating their services free of charge to the Organization		
A. First class		
Dag Hammarskjöld Inspiration Award		
1. Recipient and Goodwill Ambassador	Los Angeles/New York	224
2. Spouse of Goodwill Ambassador	Los Angeles/New York	224
Total		**448**
B. Business class		
Total		**0**
Total UNICEF		**17 733**

Annex X

Exceptions authorized for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Exceptions authorized for eminent persons		
First class		
2007 UNITAR International Peace Academy Seminar for Special and Personal Envoys of the Secretary-General		
Keynote speaker and Former President, Nigeria	Lagos/Geneva/Lagos	2 387
Total		**2 387**
Exceptions authorized for prominent persons donating their services free of charge to the Organization		
Business class		
Keynote speaker and Judge	Amsterdam/Budapest/ Amsterdam	327
Total		**327**
Total UNITAR		**2 714**

Annex XI

Exceptions authorized for the United Nations University, 1 July 2006-30 June 2008

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Exceptions authorized owing to medical conditions		
Business class		
Lecturer, United Nations University	Seoul/Tokyo/Kuala Lumpur	2 000
Total United Nations University		**2 000**

United Nations A/63/525

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 14
Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic*

Report of the Secretary-General**

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* The present report was prepared on the basis of replies from organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and Member States.

** The document was submitted late to conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, by which the Assembly decided that, if a report was submitted late, the reason should be included in a footnote to the document.

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I. Introduction

1. On 13 September 2007, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/294 entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic", in which it took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/253 and Add.1) and requested the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United nations system to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic might seek in their joint efforts to implement the Luanda Plan of Action (A/61/1019, annex I). The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-third session, taking into account, inter alia, the views addressed by Member States.

2. Pursuant to resolution 61/294, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale, dated 18 September 2008, to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations requesting their views. On 18 September, letters were also dispatched to the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations requesting them to submit by 30 October 2008 their contributions for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General.

3. As at 3 November 2008, two Governments had replied and five contributions had been received from the organizations and bodies of the United Nations. Those replies are reproduced in sections II and III of the present report. Any further replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Angola

[Original: English]
[28 October 2008]

1. The zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic is in a process of revitalization. Accordingly, following the Ministerial Meeting held in Luanda on 18 and 19 June 2007, States members of the zone are creating conditions for the aforementioned revitalization. The present reply provides an account of the actions in course to that effect.

2. It is worthwhile mentioning that the revitalization process of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic gained momentum when, on 22 September 2006, then Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, João Bernardo de Miranda, proposed to his counterparts in New York a set of actions in line with what has been called "The Luanda Initiative", which served as a base for three workshops on subjects of common interest for the zone in New York, Montevideo and Buenos Aires, dedicated to the following topics:

(a) **Economic cooperation**, contributing to poverty eradication by creating partnerships for sustainable development, trade, investment and tourism.

(b) **Peacekeeping operations**, crime prevention and combating drug trafficking, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and transnational organized crime, including piracy.

(c) **Peace, stability and security**, including conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

(d) **Scientific research, environment and marine issues.**

3. The aforementioned workshops constituted the preparatory process of the sixth Ministerial Meeting, held in Luanda on 18 and 19 June 2007, and created the necessary conditions to launch the zone's revitalization process. The Luanda Initiative was also instrumental in assisting member States to reach a platform for action based on the Luanda Final Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the sixth Ministerial Meeting.

4. The Declaration and Plan of Action were circulated as a document of the General Assembly (A/61/1019) in order to inform all States Members of the United Nations of the results of the Luanda meeting and to get the support of the Organization and of other organs as well as from individual Member States.

5. As proposed by the States members of the zone, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/294 on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

6. In the Luanda Plan of Action (A/61/1019, annex I), the Ministers entrusted the Chairmanship of the zone, Angola, with some immediate tasks, namely the indication of national focal points, the creation of a website, the holding of a meeting of either the Permanent Committee or the focal points with a view to guiding the work of the ad hoc working groups foreseen in the Plan of Action.

7. The Chair received from States members of the zone an indication of their focal points, who have the task of facilitating the coordination of the national sectors and liaising with member States on issues related to the zone.

8. Consequently, the Permanent Committee held three meetings. The first resulted in the provision of a better definition of the ad hoc working groups in the light of the Luanda Plan of Action by assigning the working groups to sectors. At the second meeting, held on 18 December 2007, the Committee took the important decision of assigning tasks among member States regarding the coordination of the working groups, as follows:

Group	*Coordinators*
Ad hoc working group of experts on economic cooperation: creation of partnerships for sustainable development, trade, investments and tourism. This group will include subgroups in order to encompass related fields:	Brazil
• **Subgroup on transport and communications development**	
• **Subgroup on science and technology**	
Ad hoc working group of experts on conflict prevention and resolution as well as peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding	Uruguay and Nigeria

Group	*Coordinators*
Ad hoc working group of experts on scientific research, the environment and marine issues. This group will include the following subgroup:	Argentina • Namibia's coordination of the environmental part to be confirmed
• Subgroup on the Environment	
Ad hoc working group of experts on the fight against illicit activities and organized crime	Sierra Leone
The Chair will propose to the members of the zone concrete actions regarding the following fields whenever the need arises:	
• Education, Sports and Culture, including aspects related to the Diaspora	

The first meeting of the focal points of the zone was held in Luanda on 15 and 16 April 2008. This was the first event of its nature in the history of this cooperation mechanism. The recommendations of this meeting were reviewed by the Permanent Committee during a meeting held in New York on 1 May 2008.

10. The meeting of the focal points, which had the participation of 18 of the 24 States members of the zone, ended with positive results, with an offer by Nigeria to host a meeting of the ad hoc group on peacekeeping operations, an offer by Brazil to host a meeting of experts on economic matters, and an offer by Cape Verde to host a workshop on maritime security, organized crime and drug trafficking. The Permanent Committee met in New York on 3 May 2008 and ratified the results of the meeting of focal points. The focal points further identified some areas of potential cooperation among States members of the zone in the areas of agriculture, innovative sources of financing and poverty reduction, law of the sea, fisheries, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

11. Following the Ministerial Meeting in Luanda, new developments took place in the relations between zone members, including the establishment of diplomatic relations between countries and the signing of cooperation agreements. In his capacity as Chairman of the zone, the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola visited two States members of the zone, Brazil and Uruguay, during his tour of South America. As a result of that visit, Angola and Uruguay signed a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of political consultations between the two countries on 22 September 2008, at the margins of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

12. Other entities from the States members of the zone visited Uruguay, namely the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Namibia (11-17 November 2007), the Foreign Minister for Equatorial Guinea (21-24 November) and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon (25-29 October 2007). During the visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, both sides agreed to hold a second session of the Bilateral Commission and to study possibilities of visa exemption between the two countries. Gabon also met at the ministerial level with Brazil and Uruguay, at the margins of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, to study further ways of enhancing bilateral relations.

13. In relation to the establishment of diplomatic relations between States members of the zone, Uruguay has formalized diplomatic relations with Liberia (31 May 2007), Guinea (19 June 2007), Gambia (25 September 2007), Togo (28 September 2007) and Benin (14 February 2008).

14. It is clear that the current phase of developments has been characterized by the creation of necessary conditions for a new stage in cooperation among zone countries, based on concrete actions of common interest. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 61/294, the General Assembly requested the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system, and invited the relevant partners, including international financial institutions, to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone might seek in their joint efforts to implement the Luanda Plan of Action. It is therefore important that the actions under way in the framework of this important mechanism of cooperation between Africa and South America be fully supported.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[31 October 2008]

1. Colombia supports all initiatives for the peaceful settlement of conflicts and the promotion of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic. Multilateral forums like the United Nations and regional bodies like the Organization of American States (OAS), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and its associated States, and the Rio Group can provide support to this end.

2. Disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are basic principles of Colombia's foreign policy. The country has accordingly taken an active part in all initiatives towards that goal. Colombia has reiterated the importance of adopting a multilateral approach on these issues, which are crucial for world peace and security, with all due regard for the rights and obligations of States and with the participation of the entire international community.

3. Colombia also remains firmly committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to the Treaty of Tlatelolco which establish in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first-ever densely populated nuclear-weapons-free zone. This fact must be highlighted, since the Treaty and its implementation are a contribution by the region to international peace and security.

4. As a further demonstration of its commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation on 28 January 2008, Colombia deposited with the United Nations Secretariat the instrument of its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

5. In the various international forums, Colombia has emphasized the importance of efforts aimed at initiating negotiations towards the establishment of other denuclearized zones in the world. Moreover, in accordance with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, it has advocated dialogue and negotiation in all circumstances as the best means of settling disputes and has sought to promote joint efforts to meet the challenges of development, peace and

security on a cooperative and constructive basis. The establishment of zones of peace and cooperation is one way of working together along those lines.

6. Colombia also contributes to initiatives for development cooperation and promotion in the South Atlantic, as shown by its participation in the third high-level forum on aid effectiveness, held in Ghana in September 2008, the high-level meeting on development needs in Africa and the first South America-Africa Summit, held in November 2006.

7. Colombia considers it of vital importance that concrete action be taken to promote and support the progress of the African continent towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. That will only be possible if there is an international commitment to attaining those targets in all regions of the world, by narrowing the gaps both between and within countries.

8. Colombia has accordingly expressed interest in strengthening bonds of cooperation with the African continent, by offering to share with the latter, its own experience in many areas, including the implementation of national development plans and poverty reduction strategies, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and long-term development policies for countries affected by situations of violence generated by illegal armed groups.

9. Moreover, Colombia believes that peace and stability in the South Atlantic region can only be achieved through technical and political cooperation to counter all aspects of illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons and the funding of criminal and terrorist networks. This is essential in order not to destabilize institutions, undermine democratic governance or harm production sectors.

10. Colombia thus expresses its full support for General Assembly resolution 41/11 and subsequent related resolutions, and its determination to work for the consolidation of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

III. Replies received from organizations and bodies of the United Nations system

Department of Public Information

1. The Department of Public Information contributes materials and advice to the peacekeeping training centres in Accra and Rio de Janeiro, both of which are also directly supported by the United Nations information centres in those cities.

2. The Department has been actively involved in assisting the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) and the Government of Sierra Leone in their joint project to transition the popular United Nations radio station to become a public service broadcaster. UNIPSIL has also been assisting the Government with drafting a progressive media law to enable and support such a public service broadcaster. The Department ensured that a public information expert was deployed to Sierra Leone to help plan and launch this project and has also helped UNIPSIL to seek support for it from the Peacebuilding Fund. The Department engaged UNIPSIL to assist with this project, which should ensure open communications between the Government and the public as key to good governance and peacebuilding in Sierra Leone.

3. The Department is actively involved with the peacekeeping missions in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, in particular with their efforts to build the local capacity and promote national ownership of communications. The United Nations radio stations in those two missions have for several years broadcast information about the ongoing peace processes. While serving as platforms for local dialogue and voices, they also educate the public on each step of the process, including on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, elections, the empowerment of civil society and the accountability of new institutions.

4. The Department closely followed issues and developments concerning the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic to ensure the dissemination of related information, in part through the Department's operation on meetings coverage and the issuance of press releases. Through press releases, articles, radio and television stories, the Department promotes peacekeeping contributions from the South Atlantic States, in particular featuring troops from Argentina, Brazil, Ghana and South Africa.

5. Of the network of 63 United Nations information centres around the world, the 8 situated in the South Atlantic region (Accra, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Lagos, Lomé, Rio de Janeiro, Windhoek and Yaoundé) carried out varied activities in support of the Luanda Plan of Action. To promote peace and security, the centres organized educational activities such as courses, lectures and briefings for students, in addition to press conferences, debates, live video-chats, radio programmes, interviews, press releases, placement of op-ed articles, conferences and special websites. The Information Centre in Accra, for example, helped to organize a model United Nations Security Council session as the concluding event of its programme for United Nations Day.

6. The United Nations information centres also assisted in organizing courses on disarmament activities. The Information Centre in Accra provided assistance to the biennial disarmament, demobilization and reintegration course at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in October 2005 as well as to other courses and lectures at the Centre between 2005 and 2008. The Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro provided support for the course on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Rio de Janeiro in May 2008, organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in partnership with the Training Centre for Peacekeeping Operations of the Brazilian Army and the National Defence College of Sweden. The Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro also partnered with the local office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to organize two-week courses on arms, ammunitions and explosives in October and November 2006.

7. The information centres in Accra, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Lagos, Rio de Janeiro and Yaoundé also facilitated seminars, broadcasts of public services announcements, print and radio interviews, and produced brochures, press releases and special online features. In April 2006, for example, the Information Centre in Lomé produced a radio programme on chemical warfare, while the Information Centre in Dakar, along with various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), organized a one-month programme of diverse activities to promote the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in June 2006. At the initiative of the Information Centre in

Buenos Aires, the public service announcement on the illicit trade of small arms, featuring United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, was aired 1,100 times on five cable television stations in Argentina between July and September 2006.

8. To raise awareness of peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts, the information centres organized radio and television programmes and training workshops and arranged interviews and placement of op-ed articles. The Information Centre in Accra, for example, participated in a training programme for Economic Community of West African States journalists in April 2006, while the Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro co-organized the first Brazilian training course for journalists covering peacekeeping missions in March 2008.

9. The information centres also organized lectures, briefings, press releases, assisted with publicity and media arrangements, photo exhibitions, interviews, and ceremonies to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers and the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations throughout 2008.

10. On development issues, activities of the United Nations information centres included workshops, press conferences, television interviews, lectures, briefings, book exhibitions, press releases, placement of op-ed articles, panel discussions, interviews, seminars and other observances. The information centres facilitated the broadcasts of public service announcements, the production and dissemination of information materials and newsletters, the launch of websites and the broadcast of a television documentary. During the World Cup 2006 football qualifying match between the national teams of Cameroon and Egypt, the Information Centre in Yaoundé, for example, distributed banners, T-shirts and information material about the Millennium Development Goals to spectators in the stadium. The Information Centre in Yaoundé produced a radio programme on the day of the African child, which was broadcast on the national radio network in June 2007. In August 2007, the Information Centre in Lagos participated in a three-day information and communications technology exhibition programme entitled "eNNOVATE Expo 2007". In Dakar, a walk against poverty was organized in October 2007, in partnership with the United Nations country team and the Council of Non-Governmental Organizations to Support Development in Senegal. The Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro negotiated with the local authorities to engage the Maracana stadium in the Stand up Campaign, where 85,000 people stood up against poverty on 17 October 2007 after watching a message on the campaign by well-known Brazilian soccer player, José Roberto Gama de Oliveira, known as "Bebeto". The Information Centre in Windhoek organized a choir festival on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in June 2008.

11. United Nations information centre activities on sustainable development included online special features, television and radio interviews and programmes, panel discussions, educational outreach events, press conferences, briefings, seminars, press releases, preparation of articles for publication, placement of op-ed articles, training sessions for journalists, production of information kits and newsletters, lectures and report launches (Accra, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Lagos, Lomé, Rio de Janeiro and Yaoundé). The Information Centre in Buenos Aires, for example, partnered with a local NGO in the organization of a school contest on "The Antarctic: Land of Science and Peace", in which more than 60 schools from Argentina participated from June to October 2007. The Information Centre in

Yaoundé co-organized a two-day conference for NGOs in September 2007, focusing on women and climate change.

12. The activities of the United Nations information centres with civil society and the business community included seminars, briefings, forums, lectures, media briefings, panel discussions, workshops and participation in diverse NGO events (Accra, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Lagos, Windhoek and Yaoundé). In April 2006, for example, the director of the Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro gave a television interview on the work of the United Nations and NGOs, which reached an estimated audience of 100,000 persons. In June 2006, the Information Centre in Lagos assisted with the launch of the United Nations Global Compact Network in Nigeria.

Office of Legal Affairs

1. The Office of Legal Affairs, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, provides assistance to States by undertaking a variety of capacity-building activities in the field of oceans and the law of the sea and by providing information and advice on the uniform and consistent application of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and which is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector. The Division also serves as the secretariat for the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Fish Stocks Agreement), which provides the legal regime for the conservation, management and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

2. Through its capacity-building activities, the Division has assisted member States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic to further the goals set forth in the Luanda Final Declaration and Plan of Action. As part of the TRAIN-SEA-COAST Programme, which is administered by the Division and funded by the Global Environment Facility, and aimed at providing capacity-building at local and regional levels, training courses have been delivered over the past six years in some member States of the zone focusing on, for example, ballast water management, wastewater management in coastal cities, marine pollution control, an integrated approach to the management of ecosystems in river basins, estuaries and coastal areas, and the role of fisherwomen in coastal communities. Within the current reporting period, the member States of the zone have also benefited from the Nippon Fellowship Programme,[1] which is administered by the Division and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with a view to providing opportunities for advanced education and training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea and related disciplines, including marine science, to Government officials and other mid-level professionals from developing coastal States.

3. The Division also collaborates with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to administer the Assistance Fund under part VII of the Fish Stocks Agreement, established in 2003 to provide financial assistance to

[1] Fellows have included individuals from Benin, Brazil, Cameroon and Ghana.

developing States parties to the Agreement in the implementation of the Agreement. Under the terms of reference of the Fund, assistance may be requested by developing States for travel-related expenses associated with participation in global or regional meetings on fisheries matters, capacity-building activities and human resource development in the fishing sector, as well as for costs related to settlement of dispute proceedings between States parties concerning the interpretation or application of the Agreement, or the interpretation or application of any global or regional agreement dealing with straddling fish stocks or highly migratory fish stocks to which they are parties.[2] As at 31 October 2008, Guinea, Namibia, Senegal and Uruguay had received financial assistance from the Fund.

4. In relation to the provision of information and advice on the uniform and consistent application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Division assisted the member States of the zone by providing information and advice on the legal framework for maritime security at a regional forum organized jointly by the International Maritime Organization and the Maritime Organization for West and Central Africa, which led to the adoption, in July 2008, of the memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a subregional integrated coast guard network for West and Central Africa.

5. In addition, the Division provides information on various issues of mutual interest for member States of the zone, as outlined in the Luanda Final Declaration and Plan of Action, in connection with its role as secretariat of a number of United Nations processes dealing with marine issues. For example, the open-ended informal consultative process on oceans and the law of the sea, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33, focused the discussions of its 2007 meeting on marine genetic resources and its 2008 meeting on maritime security and safety. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction,[3] which met in 2006 and 2008, also provided an opportunity for the consideration of specific issues of mutual interest. Moreover, the informal consultations of States parties to the Fish Stocks Agreement, to which seven of the members of the zone[4] are also parties, regularly address such issues as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and compliance and enforcement in the fishing sector.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has continued to support progress in compliance with paragraphs 56, 58, 63 and 71 of the Luanda Final Declaration (A/61/1019, annex II), which relate specifically to its fisheries work, particularly to the sustainable use of genetic marine resources; the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity; the use of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices in the zone; and fishing vessels in the high seas.

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[2] Information regarding the Fish Stocks Agreement and the Assistance Fund, including the application procedure thereto, is available at www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_fish_stocks.htm.

[3] See General Assembly resolutions 59/24, paras. 73 and 74, and 61/222, para. 91.

[4] Brazil, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Uruguay.

2. During the past decade, the major actions of FAO were implemented through support of the activities planned under section I, paragraph 2 ("Promote South-South cooperation, particularly in the fields of science and technology as well as in the development of human resources") and section IV, paragraph 1 ("Engage in joint technical and scientific projects involving the protection and responsible management of their marine resources") of the Luanda Plan of Action (A/61/1019, annex I), notably:

(a) A feasibility study on the ecosystem approach to fisheries at the regional and national levels in the Benguela region; this is important in relation to marine biodiversity conservation;

(b) The FAO/Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation/ecosystem approach to fisheries/Nansen project on "Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries". In the past, the Nansen programme has both collected data and carried out biodiversity studies of the marine environment in close collaboration with Angolan scientists;

(c) A project run by the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem Programme on identification of main bio-geographical regions off south-west Africa (including Angola, Namibia and South Africa).

(d) Scientific surveys, as part of the new ecosystem approach to fisheries Nansen programme, in partnership with the Instituto de Investigação Marinha in Angola, through which data on species and habitat distribution are collected.

3. By providing the countries in West Africa with the services of a modern and up-to-date research vessel, FAO allows the countries to obtain the information that is a prerequisite to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic marine resources and marine biological diversity. The project, through its organizational and capacity-building activities and the identification of priority areas and actions for addressing the issues related to the two points indicated above, reinforces cooperation among the countries in West Africa and increases their capacity not only to manage marine genetic resources and biodiversity but also to fight major problems related to this, such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

4. The tasks assigned to the FAO secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture include work related to the availability of information and access to, and benefit sharing of, aquatic genetic resources.

5. With regard to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, FAO developed and adopted in August 2008 international guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas. These include standards and criteria for use by States and regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements in identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction and the impact of fishing on such ecosystems and establishing standards for the management of deep-sea fisheries.

6. Concern over illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and related activities has been a global concern and a priority issue on the agenda of the international fisheries community for nearly a decade. FAO has been working with the Southern African Development Community and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea for the past year as each group moves towards establishing a

network of monitoring, control and surveillance fisheries professionals in the member countries. The aim is for them to share experiences, pool resources, collaborate on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing incidents, harmonize legislation and management regimes where possible and appropriate, strengthen licensing and authorization provisions, and generate broad-based capacity-building for strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance.

7. FAO has conducted an inventory of satellite-based vessel monitoring systems used for vessel tracking and detection of illegal fishing activities globally. The questionnaire used in the survey was extensive and was supposed to serve as an assessment tool for States. A number of countries on both sides of the South Atlantic responded, indicating increases in the acquisition of this type of technology and FAO is subsequently creating a database of responses so data can be analysed more thoroughly. For direct capacity-building, FAO co-sponsored a global workshop on monitoring, control and surveillance and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing issues for enforcement professionals and a number of participants from the area attended. Another such global fisheries enforcement workshop is planned for Mozambique in 2010.

8. The 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, an integral component of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, entered into force on 24 April 2003. As at 24 October 2008, 35 States[5] and the European Community had accepted the Agreement. The Agreement provides for the creation of an international database concerning high seas fishing vessels, to be maintained by FAO, which will be of great value to States and regional fisheries bodies. Some members that have accepted the Agreement have provided data to FAO for inclusion in the database. The rate of deposit of instruments of acceptance for the Agreement has been low and as a result FAO continues to urge its members to become parties to the Agreement as a means of enhancing the management of high seas fisheries and in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

United Nations Office at Geneva

The United Nations Office at Geneva forwarded an updated list of Member States in the South Atlantic region that have signed, acceded to or ratified multilateral disarmament treaties and conventions since 2003 (see annex to the present report).

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Normative work

1. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has assisted and supported national, regional and international efforts to combat transnational

[5] Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Japan, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

organized crime and corruption by providing pre-ratification and implementation assistance for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its three Protocols, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. UNODC has also provided States members of the zone with technical assistance in the fight against transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption, as well as in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

2. Pre-ratification assistance has also been provided to individual countries, including Angola, Benin, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe and Sierra Leone. Some of the States members of the zone have also attended two pilot study tours organized by UNODC and the Government of Portugal for Portuguese-speaking countries on the ratification and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols (November 2003 and November 2004). UNODC has received, and is in various stages of responding to, requests for assistance from several other countries in the zone.

3. Argentina is one of the countries participating in the voluntary pilot programme launched by UNODC to review the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.[6]

4. At present, 4 States members of the zone have signed and 19 States members have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; 3 members have signed and 16 members have become parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons; 5 members have signed and 15 members have become parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea; 1 member has signed and 11 members have become parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition; and 2 members have signed and 19 members have become parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Technical cooperation and human and institutional capacity-building

5. Sea freight containers are an integral part of the international trade supply chain, and the volume of freight containers used in global trade increases steadily every year. A fast-growing crime phenomenon is the abuse of commercial sea containers by international organized crime groups for the trafficking of illicit drugs and precursors, as well as for other criminal gain (smuggling and/or contraband explosives, weapons, munitions, nuclear materials, counterfeit goods protected under intellectual property rights treaties, etc.).

6. In 2004 UNODC embarked on a container control pilot programme to assist Governments in selected countries to establish effective container control units at priority ports. In the region of the South Atlantic, two African States, Ghana and Senegal, are participating in the pilot phases, while Brazil is in preliminary negotiations to be included under the programme. The enforcement units to be

[6] Under the pilot, each of the States participates in reviews with another State in its regional group and with a third State in an effort to foster closer regional dialogue and, when possible, to place benchmarks and review efforts in comparable contexts. The participating States reply to the self-assessment checklist prepared by the secretariat and the expert review group analyses the responses.

established will serve to strengthen controls and prevent trafficking in illicit goods and other organized crime, while at the same time facilitating legitimate trade. The programme will develop, at the pilot ports, proper analytical and profiling systems and capacities, so as to identify and interdict containers posing a high risk, and allow the smooth transport of legitimate freight. The programme provides all required technical assistance to the pilot sites to conduct effective analysis and profiling, provide the subsequent control of high-risk containers, and follow-up investigation as needed, through a bundled package of training, advisory, expert, and other services and equipment. These dedicated multi-agency port control units, comprising customs and enforcement officers, will also receive the required search and selection equipment and computer equipment needed for their analytical work. New partnerships are also being forged between enforcement and the trade/business communities at ports and at the global level.

7. In 2007 and 2008 UNODC has been implementing a project on data for Africa, which aims to strengthen data collection and analysis, information and knowledge on crime and drugs and their link with socio-economic development issues in Africa. Through the project, UNODC has worked with selected South Atlantic countries to strengthen their capacity to collect and disseminate crime and drug statistics. Within this project and under the framework of other national projects, victimization and corruption surveys were planned and carried out in Cape Verde and Nigeria.

8. In October 2008, UNODC produced a report entitled "Drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa". The report outlines the cocaine trafficking from Latin America to West Africa and destined for Western Europe and highlights the vulnerability of the region, in particular its underresourced criminal justice agencies and the need for international support to counteract this phenomenon.

Cooperation and policy coordination

9. In December 2007 UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Commission of the African Union with a view of specifically enhancing cooperation at regional, subregional and national levels. The areas of cooperation include drug demand reduction, drug trafficking, HIV/AIDS in a prison setting, crime prevention and criminal justice reform, smuggling of small arms, corruption, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants and data collections. The memorandum further outlines that any specific collaboration in these areas should involve close collaboration with the African regional economic commissions.

Annex

List compiled by the United Nations Office at Geneva of Member States in the South Atlantic region that have signed, acceded to or ratified multilateral disarmament treaties and conventions since 2003

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

- Benin, Gabon, Ethiopia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda and Senegal have become States parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba). The ratification by these eight countries brought the total number of ratifications to 26, only two short of the number of ratifications required for the entry into force of the Treaty.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

- Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Rwanda, the Sudan, Togo, the Seychelles, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty since August 2003.
- Belize, Colombia and Suriname have ratified the Treaty since August 2003.

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

- Since August 2003, Gabon, Madagascar and Zambia have become States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.
- During the same period, the Central African Republic, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe have ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.
- Belize also became a State party to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

- Since August 2003, Burundi, Ethiopia, Guyana and the Sudan have ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminative Effects

- Since August 2003, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminative Effects has been ratified by Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Madagascar, Paraguay, Sierra Leone and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

- During the same period, the Niger acceded to Amended Protocol II and Protocol IV and Ecuador to Protocol IV to the Convention. El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Liberia, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Uruguay have all expressed consent to be bound by Protocol V to the Convention on explosive remnants of war, which entered into force on 12 November 2006.

Small arms and light weapons

- The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region of the Horn of Africa entered into force on 5 May 2006. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials on 14 June 2006 in Abuja, which turned the 1998 ECOWAS Moratorium on Small Arms and Light Weapons into a legally binding instrument. The Protocol of the Control of Firearms Ammunition and Other Related Materials in the Southern African Development Community region also entered into force on 8 November 2004.